

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) An information ~~recording/reproducing~~-recording and ~~reproducing~~ apparatus for recording information by forming an information pit determined by a magnetic domain on a track in a magnetic recording disk, said information pit being formed by applying a magnetic recording field and heating a certain portion of the track, comprising:

means for heating the information pit by generating a heated area on the track;

a magnetic head for applying the magnetic field to the information pit and for sensing the information pit on the track;

a swing arm for holding and positioning the magnetic head to desired position on the track; and

said magnetic head including a magnetic flux detecting means,

wherein ~~means~~ means for controlling an orientation of a shape of the heated area with respect to the track ~~is centred~~-according to a radial position on the disk so that the orientation is coincident with a longitudinal direction of the magnetic flux detecting means according to the track.

19. (Previously Presented) An information recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising:  
a second swing arm for holding and positioning the means for heating the information pit to a predetermined portion on the track.
20. (Previously Presented) An information recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said means for heating the information pit further comprises:  
an optical device for forming a light spot on the track.
21. (Previously Presented) An information recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein a distance between a rotational axis of the swing arm and a rotational axis of the disk and a distance between a rotational axis of the second swing arm and the rotational axis of the disk is substantially the same, and a distance between the magnetic flux detecting means and the rotational axis of the swing arm and a distance between the means for heating the information pit and the rotational axis of the second swing arm is substantially the same.
22. (Currently Amended) An information recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:  
a slider held by the swing arm; on which is installed  
wherein said the means for heating the information pit, said magnetic flux detecting means, and a means said head for applying the magnetic recording field are installed in said slider.

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23. (Cancelled)

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